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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
Charles Manly,
LATE GOVERNOR
OF
North. Carolina.

BY
JAMES M. CLEVELAND.



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THE following article is taken from the *Democratic Star*, published at *Helena, Arkansas*:

“A NEW FEATURE.”

The Editor of this paper has been, for the last three or four years, preparing for the Press a Volume which, when completed, he designs publishing, entitled, “*Biographical Sketches of all the Governors* elected in the several States, since their transition from Territorial or Colonial Governments, up to the close of the year 18—, drawn from Authentic Sources. By JAMES M. CLEVELAND. With numerous *fac simile* Autographs.” Extracts from the Work will be published in the “*Star*,” from time to time, with a view of bringing the Work to the notice of the public; and, at the same time, presenting our readers with a greater variety of original matter. The following is an Extract from the Manuscript of the Work:



Charles Manly

LATE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

“BASIL MANLY, the father of the subject of this Sketch, was born and raised in St. Mary’s County, Maryland. He removed to North Carolina *before* the American Revolution, settled in the County of Bladen, and was a bold and active partizan Officer, holding the commission of Captain in the Militia service during the War.

“He married ELIZABETH MAULTSBY, of Bladen; and, on account of ill health, removed to the County of Chatham, where he died in the year 1824, at a very advanced age—universally respected as a man of great decision of character, of high moral courage, and the most inflexible love of justice and honesty. Having enjoyed but very limited means of education himself, and witnessed, during the stormy period of the Revolution and the years which followed, the signal advantages possessed by men of letters, he devoted all the energies of an industrious and frugal life to the bestowal on his sons of a liberal education. He lived to accomplish, with great gratification, this

cherished object of his heart; and his pious and amiable widow—a woman of extraordinary mental endowments—still survives, to rejoice at the results of their joint efforts and sacrifices and prayers, in witnessing the eminent success in life of their three sons:—CHARLES MANLY, the late Governor of *North Carolina*; BASIL MANLY, who was graduated at the South Carolina College, at Columbia, with the highest honors of the Institution, and is now President of the Alabama University; and MATTHIAS EVANS MANLY, who was graduated at the University of North Carolina, with the highest honors of that Institution, and is now, and has been for several years, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity in the State.

“CHARLES MANLY, the oldest son, was born in the County of Chatham, on the 13th day of May, 1795. He was prepared for College by that excellent classical scholar, and rigid disciplinarian, the late Rev. WILLIAM BINGHAM, at the Pittsboro’ Academy, and entered the University, at Chapel Hill, in the year 1811. During the whole of his college course, he received the first distinction in all his classes, was regarded as one of the best declaimers in college, and graduated in 1814, with the first honor of the senior class.

"The late JOHN HAYWOOD, of Raleigh, attended the Commencement of that year, as one of the Visiting Trustees, and, attracted by the college reputation of this young man, engaged him as a private tutor for his sons.

"This situation was highly acceptable and advantageous to young MANLY; for, besides enjoying the favorable regard and friendship of Mr. HAYWOOD, the most popular and influential man of that day in the State, he thus procured means, without calling upon the narrow income of his father, to prosecute the study of law. He continued in this double occupation for two years, and still cherishes, with undiminished respect and affection, the memory of his early friend and patron; that great and good man, the late JOHN HAYWOOD.

"He was admitted to the bar in 1816, and to practice in the Superior Courts in 1817. During the latter year, he was married to Miss CHARITY H. HAYWOOD, daughter of WILLIAM HENRY HAYWOOD, and thereupon settled permanently in the city of Raleigh, and commenced the practice of law.

"Soon after coming to the bar, he was elected by the Justices, over a popular competitor, County Attorney for Chatham, the duties of which station he discharged very acceptably to all concerned, for many years, and until he resigned.

“Upon the death of General Robert Williams, he was appointed his successor as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the University; and, in that capacity, has been signally instrumental in so arranging and managing the finances of the Institution as to place her in a position of eminent prosperity.

“During the sitting of the Legislature in 1823, the reading Clerk of the House of Commons resigned. The late John Stanly, then a prominent member of that body, sent immediately for Mr. Manly, and after a short consultation nominated him for the office. He was elected, and continued for many successive sessions, by unanimous re-appointment, to discharge the duties of that station. He was subsequently elected Chief Clerk of the House of Commons, which office he held, always without opposition, until the year 1842, when the Democratic party having a majority, dismissed him, together with the other Whig officers of the House. At the ensuing election, under a Whig dynasty, he was re-elected chief Clerk, and so continued until he resigned in 1848.

“In the year 1823, the joint American and British Commission established under that article of the treaty of Ghent relative to the claims of American citizens for slaves and other property taken away by the British, during the war of 1812, assembled in the City of Washington: Langdon Cheves, of South

Carolina, and Henry Seawell, of North Carolina, being on the American side, and George Jackson and John McTavish on the British side of said Commission. This body appointed Charles Manly Clerk to the Commission. This post, connected as it was with the Diplomatic corps at Washington, was a very desirable one to a young man. It afforded him a passport to the best society, and enabled him to form the acquaintance of many of the most eminent men of that day. Mr. Manly held this place for twelve months, when, discovering that it interfered materially with his professional pursuits, he resigned it with great regret. He now devoted himself to his profession with ardor and success.

“The Alumni Association of the University invited Mr. Manly to deliver the first “Annual Address” before that body, at the College Commencement of 1838. The invitation was accepted on very short notice, yet the Address and style of delivery will be long remembered by the crowded auditory present on that occasion, as one of the very happiest efforts of chaste as well as popular elocution.

“Unambitious of political distinction, he was never a candidate before the people for any office until the year 1840, when he was elected a whig elector of President and Vice President of the Uni-

ted States; and in the Electoral College of that year cast the vote of North Carolina for William H. Harrison and John Tyler.

“During the heated political campaigns of 1840 and 1844, Mr. Manly was a decided but not vindictive partizan, and rendered efficient service to his party as a member of the Whig Central Committee, and as Chairman of that committee in the memorable campaign of 1840.

“In the year 1848, without the employment on his part of those electioneering arts sometimes practiced, he was nominated by the Whig Convention as their candidate for Governor of the State. The election being by popular suffrage, he canvassed the State with great satisfaction to his friends, and with marked ability, and was elected. He was installed into the office of Governor on the first day of January, 1849, and served his constitutional term of two years. In 1850, he was again unanimously nominated by the Whig Convention for re-election. In consequence of that want of ardor in a party confident of victory, as well as some sectional divisions in the Whig ranks on questions of State policy, he was beaten by the Hon. David S. Reid, his Democratic competitor.

"Governor Manly, in the vigor of health and mature age, has resumed the practice of his profession. Greatly distinguished for his social virtues, of benevolent disposition, of urbane and polished manners, beloved at home and respected by all, in the enjoyment of a competency secured by honest industry, economy, and prudence in his affairs, he lives the unaffected exemplar of a well-bred gentleman and a good citizen."

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